

SPORTS

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Soccer's best in 2002 selected

BY DON TURPIN

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St. Lawrence and Mount Pearl each gained three selections in voting for the best performers within the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association during 2002.

Results of the selection committee were announced by provincial soccer president Clayton Welsh of Grand Bank with three of the eight awards have been claimed by St. Lawrence nominations.

The St. Lawrence Laurentians, national Challenge Cup silver medallists, have been named 'team of the year' and their coach Clem 'Junior' Edwards was named 'coach of the year'.

St. Lawrence striker Richard Kelly is the 'top senior male player' for 2002 and U.S. university collegiate Jennifer Parsons of Portugal Cove, rated 20th in NCAA Women's Soccer Division I, which includes 285 teams, was voted 'top senior female player'.

Provincial boys and girls under-17 all-stars Andrew Murphy and Leah O'Grady, both of Mount Pearl, emerged as the 'top junior players'.

Dave LeGrow of Mount Pearl earned 'executive of the year' honors.

Mario Simon of St. John's got the nod as the 'most deserving official' and gained the 'Ross Arlett Memorial Award'. Simon has been calling plays for 15

years and holds a Class One certificate while officiating at three national championships.

The 'Ross Arlett Scholarship' was awarded to Crystal Kean of St. John's. A Labrador native and physical education student at Memorial University, Kean has been calling senior play for two years after several years of officiating minor soccer.

"Soccer within Newfoundland and Labrador enjoyed exceptional success during 2002," Welsh said in naming the winners.

"The extremely high caliber of all the winners, indeed of all those nominated, is a fine yardstick by which to judge the 2002 success."

While congratulating the winners, he said "the nominations were of a very, very high caliber so the final selections were very, very difficult. All soccer people can be proud of the winners and the prestige they brought to soccer. We are extremely proud of all of them."

The winners will be recognized and honored during a luncheon associated with the spring meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association scheduled for St. John's.

ST. LAWRENCE LAURENTIANS

The Laurentians emerged as an exceptionally successful club from the 2002 season with a great effort gaining them the national Challenge Cup sil-

ver medal in one of the best Canadian championships ever held within Newfoundland and Labrador.

A spirited 1-0 win over British Columbia, a 1-1 tie with Quebec, a 3-1 decision over Alberta moved the talented St. Lawrence club into the title game. Manitoba won the crown but the exciting 1-0 contest went to double overtime as the Laurentians proved they are equal to any senior soccer team in Canada.

Provincially, St. Lawrence won the Molson Challenge Cup title with two exciting playoff wins after finishing first in the regular schedule and taking the second round playdowns. During the provincial schedule the Laurentians won 16 games, tied four and lost only one while scoring 55 goals and allowing only 22 goals against.

Five members of the club were selected as provincial all-stars, two were named individual award winners and one emerged as the top scorer.

CLEM 'JUNIOR' EDWARDS

Edwards combined exceptional soccer knowledge with great experience to provide the coaching leading the Laurentians to an outstanding 2002 season. His leadership was a major factor in the Laurentians earning a silver medal at the national level after a successful season on the provincial scene.

An ability to beneficially react to players while

putting successful strategy together were valuable contributions to the St. Lawrence team which came within one goal of a national Challenge Cup gold medal. Edwards' coaching led St. Lawrence to the provincial Challenge Cup title after a first place finish in the regular schedule and a pair of wins in the provincial playoffs.

RICHARD KELLY

A recognized scorer, Kelly claimed the provincial Molson Challenge Cup scoring title with 14 goals. The striker was named to the provincial all-stars and selected to the first Atlantic University soccer all-stars after an impressive season on Memorial University's varsity team.

Twice named player of the week and once player of the month by the Atlantic University organization, he scored six goals for Memorial, tops for his team and third within the league.

His tremendous determination, coupled with skill, talent and expertise, had Kelly finish with three goals from four national Challenge Cup Championship encounters. He had the winner in a 1-0 decision over British Columbia, scored in a 1-1 tie with Quebec and tallied one of three goals in a 3-1 verdict over Alberta.

In addition to scoring, his overall performance left him as one of the most respected performers in the national championships.



The Newfoundland Soccer Association's team of the year for 2002 is the national silver medallists St. Lawrence Laurentians. Team members are (kneeling, from left): Scot Bishop, Chris Caines, Blair Aylward, Richard Kelly, Goalies Pat Bryne and Shane Etchegary, Team Captain Bob Spearns, Clinton Edwards, Jason Clarke, Eddy Turpin and Dr. Paul Slaney. Standing: Derek Strang, Alex Turpin, Earl Turpin, Ryan Slaney, Harry Kelly, Andrew Perrot, Cory Walsh, Adam Loder, Robert Kelly, Sheldon Slaney, Paul Slaney Jr., Rudy Norman, Ryan Drake, Manager Hubert Beck, Coach Junior Edwards and Assistant Coach Greg Quirke.

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